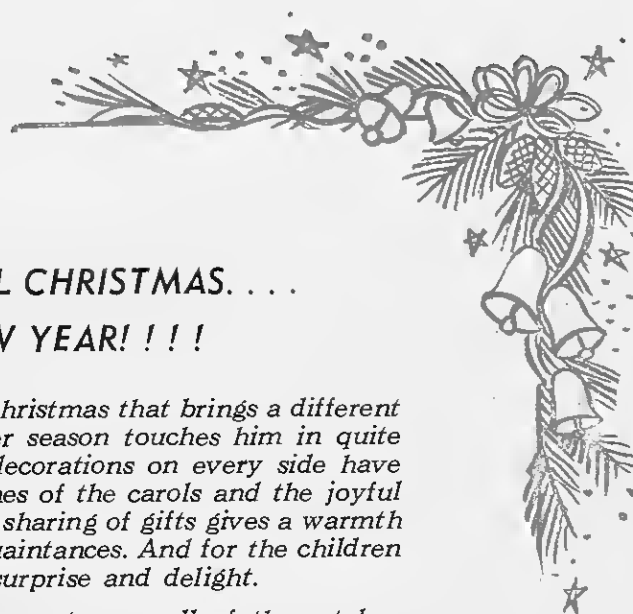


The Southeast News

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

VOLUME VI - NUMBER 2

DECEMBER, 1957



WE WISH YOU A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS. . . .
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR! ! ! !

There is that about the season of Christmas that brings a different feeling into the heart of man. No other season touches him in quite the same way. Certainly the cheerful decorations on every side have something to do with it. The merry tunes of the carols and the joyful notes of the hymns play their part. The sharing of gifts gives a warmth to friendships and makes friends of acquaintances. And for the children there is the visit from Santa to bring surprise and delight.

But somehow no one of these elements, nor all of them taken together, really explains the different feeling in its deepest sense. So frequently we hear it said that we have "taken Christ out of Christmas." But no one really can do that in any ultimate way. It is because Christ always is in Christmas that man does have a different feeling in his heart at this season of the year. In competition with the various ways in which His birthday is celebrated, Christ still touches the spirit of man and demonstrates once again that God loves the world and that,

*"Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in."*

At this Christmas Season we pray that Christ may be in your heart and in your living. May your Christmas be joyful and your New Year blessed by God.

Faithfully yours,

James H. Lightbourne, Jr.

Annie R. Campbell

Montez G. Albright

Odell Yancey

W. J. Strickland



YOUTH WEEK, 1958

The theme of Youth Week, sponsored by the United Christian Youth Movement, Jan. 26 - Feb. 2, is "Lord—help our Unbelief." The theme challenges youth "to allow Christ to be the center of their lives, around which their personalities are integrated."

In the interpretation of the Youth Week poster we find these statements which have meaning for adults as well as youth: "Christian faith must go deeper than just intellectual understanding; it must become a confidence, a trust, an assurance, a conviction, that so gets hold of a person, so permeates him, that after the experience he can correctly be called a 'new creature' — a Christian, if you will." It goes on to say, "it is no sign of weakness or failure on man's part when he must ask God's help in achieving Christian faith; that is the way faith is meant to come and the only way it can come."

Observance of Youth Week is an interdenominational effort. It is important that adults in our churches recognize this effort of youth toward personal growth as Christians.

CENTRAL GEORGIA RALLY

The Pilgrim Fellowship of Central Georgia District held a rally on Nov. 24 at Barnesville Fredonia Church.

Officers elected for the coming year were Ann Sullivan, President; Randy Daniel, Vice-president; Nancy Newberry, Secretary - Treasurer and reporter; Commission chairman: Fellowship, Roger Crawford; Action, Paul Parker; Faith, Barbara Bush. Mrs. Sam Nelson, wife of the Fredonia pastor, is Advisor.

PF leaders who were present and on



Left to right: Roger Crawford, Randy Daniel, Paul Parker, Ann Sullivan, Barbara Bush, Nancy Newberry and Mrs. Sam Nelson, advisor.

CHURCH VOCATIONS

Plans for the first Church Vocations Conference for young people of the Southeast Convention are nearing completion, with more than 50 names having been sent to the committee. It is anticipated that 30 or more young people will attend Dec. 27-29 at Southern Union College in Wadley, Ala.

Topics to be discussed in the three-day program are "What Constitutes a Call" by Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr.; "The Parish Ministry," by Rev. Arnold Slater; "The Mission Field" by Miss Isabel Hemingway, R. N., a medical missionary who served under the Communist regime in North China before being reassigned to the Near East; "The Chaplaincy" by Rev. W. W. Elder; "The Rural Ministry" by Rev. W. Raymond Berry; "Christian Education" by Mrs. Raymond Berry; "Social Service" by Miss Margaret Beaird; and "Taking Up Our Cross" by Rev. Carl Landes.

SEC young people will lead the worship services and recreation, and the Rev. Miss Annie R. Campbell will present filmstrips and literature.

CHURCHMEN'S RALLY

The two-day session of the Churchmen's Fellowship was held in Lanett Church Nov. 16 and 17 with Dr. Kenneth Kohler and Walter A. Graham as guest leaders. About 40 ministers and laymen were present.

The E and R Church of Birmingham sent representatives to this meeting, and the church has already taken the name "The United Church."

Packets with program suggestions were distributed to laymen present and are being mailed to churches not represented at the meeting. If your church does not receive the Laymen's Packet and you would like to have one, please write the Convention office.

the program were V. R. Dobson, SEC president; Peggy Hammock, corresponding secretary; and Melvin Roquemore, Vice-president of the Valley District. The Rev. Miss Annie R. Campbell was also present to lend moral support.

Skits were given on Work Day for Christ projects, with worship, recreation; and lavish refreshments by the local church.

R. J. BARNES ORDAINED

A service of ordination was held on Dec. 3 at the County Line Church for the Rev. Richard J. Barnes Sr., authorization having been voted by the Georgia-South Carolina Conference.

Dr. Thomas Anderson preached the sermon, Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr. led the vows of ordination, and Rev. W. Raymond Berry gave the charge to the congregation and ordination prayer.

Minister's Convocation

About 26 ministers attended the Minister's Convocation and Training School, held at Southern Union College Nov. 18-22. Dr. Roger Shinn was the Convocation lecturer, and those present reported an inspiring and educational program.

Ministers participating in the in-service training program will be continuing their correspondence courses in Church History, with Dr. Guy Colbert; and in Christian Education, with Mrs. Raymond Berry. The courses last six months, beginning with the week on campus.

The Spring Convocation will be held May 6-8 at Southern Union College. The time on campus has been shortened to Tuesday through Thursday to stimulate increased attendance. It is hoped that Dr. Robert W. Spike, director of the Dept. of Evangelism, will be the guest lecturer.

CHURCH BUILDERS CLUB

A new constitution was adopted at the annual meeting of the Church Builders Club, held Nov. 17 in Lanett Church. According to the new constitution, the annual meeting will be held each year in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southeast Convention and new officers, plus the three trustees elected annually, will be elected at that time. The present officers and trustees will continue in office until April 20.

The call for pledge payments to Nashville Brookmeade Church has been extended to Jan. 31, since many people have been ill with flu and local representatives have not been able to contact everyone on their lists.

All members are urged to pay either the local church CBC representative, or send pledges to the Convention office.

Wm. E. Peterson Elected New Laymen's Director

To succeed Walter A. Graham, who will take office as President of the Southern Union College on January 1st, 1958, William E. Peterson of St. Louis, Mo., has been voted unanimously by the Board of Home Missions as the new Director of the National Laymen's Fellowship.

Mr. Peterson was nominated to this important post by the Laymen's Fellowship Board of Directors. He has long been active in church work, now serving as Moderator of his own church, Missouri State Laymen's Fellowship Chairman, Member of the National Board of Directors and a member of the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ.

Mr. Peterson has spent many years as Department Manager of Shapleigh Hardware Co., and is presently serving as president of the Builders Hardware and Specialty Co. of St. Louis and vice-president of Central Indiana Hardware Co. of Indianapolis, Ind.

Mr. Peterson will take office Jan. 1 and his headquarters will be his home in St. Louis.

Dr. Gettemy To Hartford

Dr. James N. Gettemy, minister of the Community Church of Garden City, Long Island, N. Y., has been elected president of the Hartford Seminary Foundation effective July 1.

At 38 Dr. Gettemy is the youngest president in the 123-year history of the foundation. He will succeed Dr. Russell Henry Stafford, noted Congregational Christian clergyman, who has been president since 1945.

The Hartford Seminary Foundation comprises the interdenominational Hartford Theological Seminary and School of Religious Education, Kenedy School of Missions and the Institute of Church Social Service.

A DATE TO SAVE!!!

Services of inauguration for Walter A. Graham, president of Southern Union College, will be held Saturday, April 12, 1958, in Wadley, Ala.

World Council Of Churches

Dr. Fred Hoskins, minister of the General Council, is appealing to all Congregational Christian churches for active participation in the World Council of Churches. In his report on accomplishments in the past 12 months, Dr. Hoskins states:

"40,000 refugees have been resettled in new homes.

"The East Asia Christian Conference was formed and will greatly encourage and strengthen the evangelism and missionary spirit of the churches in a very strategic area.

"The World Council was expanded by the joining of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, the Burma Baptist Convention, the Gereformeerde Church in Indonesia, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the U. S. A., and the Presbyterian Church of Jamaica, West Indies.

"At Oberlin, in September, the North American Study Conference on the 'Nature of the Unity We Seek' broke new ground in the search for a fuller understanding of the issues affecting the unity of the Church.

"These are typical of the activities of the World Council of Churches and of the wide scope and increasingly important nature of its organization as a vast arm of Christian fellowship engaging in tasks impossible of accomplishment by denominational members individually.

"The General Council is able to make a nominal appropriation of \$5,000 in behalf of our Congregational Christian Churches. To meet the total quota of our Fellowship a considerable number of our local churches welcome annually the opportunity to give directly to the underwriting of this great enterprise. This furthers the feeling and the fact of their congregation's participation. Many carry on their letterheads and weekly calendars some indication of their relationship, such as: 'affiliated with' or 'actively participating in' the World Council of Churches.

"Perhaps this is already a regular item in your church budget. If not, I invite you to share directly in this great enterprise this year."

Checks may be sent to the Convention office, designated, and will be forwarded to the World Council of Churches.

Southern Christian Social Action Institute

A Southern Christian Social Action Institute will be held at Lake Byrd Lodge in Avon Park, Fla., Feb. 11-14 with delegates from the Florida Conference, the Southern Convention, the Convention of the South, and the Southeast Convention. Wilfred Oliver, Christian Social Action chairman for the Florida Conference, is planning the program in cooperation with the southern superintendents.

Leaders for the institute will be Dr. Herman Reissig and Miss Fern Babcock, of the staff of the Council for Christian Social Action. Topics to be discussed include "The Meaning of Christian Social Action", "Organizing Social Action Groups Locally", "Leadership Training", "Alcoholism", "The Creative Use of Leisure in the Retired Years", "International Affairs", "The Church and Social Welfare" and "Problems of Our Southern States and How We Can Best Meet Them".

The Southeast Regional Meeting will be held in conjunction with this institute, either before or after.

FILMS AND FILMSTRIPS

ON THE THRESHOLD: 28-minute black and white sound movie interprets the deeper significance of the union which formed the United Church of Christ — a new Church, with new richness, vitality and spiritual strength.

Starting with the events that took place in Cleveland in June 1957, the film goes on to show some of the places where the United Church is at work and some of the people in the midst of the work — new frontiers in the United States and new developments in our work with the Church in Japan.

YOUNGEST CHURCH: news film of the Uniting General Synod at Cleveland. Black and white, 17 minutes, with sound.

NEW FRONTIERS OF FAITH: glimpses of the needs of America today; a color and sound film of the Board of Home Missions.

TO SING AGAIN: new color film-strip on the Service Committee and its work in Greece, Italy and Korea; 17 minutes, with 33 1/3 speed record.

All of the above are available FREE from the Convention office.

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VETERANS OF THE CROSS

Each year, for over 50 years, the churches of our denomination have joyfully and generously contributed to the Christmas Fund. The Fund is an expression of their appreciation of the aged, retired men and women who have given themselves and their talents in long years of church service, and who need financial assistance, now that their earning power has ceased. The Ministerial Relief Division of the Board of Home Missions makes regular grants to these ministers and widows of ministers — grants which keep them supplied with the basic necessities of life; but the Christmas Fund is the special gift which provides a few additional comforts, and lets them know they are warmly remembered and still "belong." Last year almost 800 checks were sent out in time for Christmas. The remainder of the Fund, held to meet emergency expenses; made Christmas for many days to those who needed this aid.

A number of Southeast Convention churches contribute to this fund each year, as a part of their mission program.

THE SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM OUR NATIONAL LEADERS

WISDOM

Biblical record has it that three kings from the East, guided by a star, went forth on a long and tedious journey to pay homage to Him who had been born King of the Jews. Matthew very properly calls the kings "wise men," for it is the wise who seek, at whatever cost, life's best.

Advent returns to caution us also to be wise and alert in our quest for the highest. Man cannot confine God to sanctuary walls. He may prefer a humble home in a city slum.

Wise men indeed we are if, desiring to win God's approval, we lay before the Christ Child gifts of love and gratitude, of friendship and brotherhood, of understanding and sympathy, of service and sacrifice, of humility and devotion.

—Stanley U. North, General Secretary,
The C. C. Board of Home Missions

* * * *

O Wondrous Night

It is quite natural to associate the Christmas season with giving, but we must also associate it with receiving. In accepting God's greatest gift we RECEIVE by giving: giving the Christ Child a home in our hearts.

God gives to us life in this world, as seen in every new little life since the race began. He also gives us the promise of life in the next world: "So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven." The deep consciousness of the centrality of this in Christian faith led the early Church to celebrate Christ's emergence from the tomb long centuries before it celebrated His birth in the stable.

In both events we are solely recipients of God's free gifts, and this should make us aware of the danger that surrounds us increasingly in the Yuletide stress on giving and receiving THINGS. When we seek truly to celebrate Christmas we shall be mindful that the spirit of the day comes to its expression in

Making For Shore

We are set for an adventurous voyage in a new year. Our very going out will be the beginning of our coming in. To make for shore is the object of every responsible raising of anchor. There can be no other sensible purpose. An ancient sea story told in the Gospel of John (6:16-21) describes men struggling against wind and waves to make shore. Overtaken by a gale, they were in danger of capsizing and had begun to panic. Then, "They saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat . . . He said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going."

Once they took Jesus aboard they made the shore handily. Not by magic, but by the miracle the shore of life is gained by those who receive Christ. The miracle is that God in his grace has given us Christ who is our Way, our Life, and our Light. Beginning the new year, the shore of life's voyage appears distant. It is cut off and hidden by all manner of confusions and difficulties. Even from the first, storm warnings are out; but the goal is attainable; else all life is a bizarre joke. Scarcely can we in our own wisdom and skill and strength alone make through to where we ought to go; but Christmas has taught us that God in Christ has come to man, and Easter has shown us that He is ever to be available to guide us safely to the shore of life's voyage. So, by all means, Happy New Year!

—Fred Hoskins, Minister & Exec. Sec.
The C. C. General Council

fullness only when it leads to a recommitment of life and life's treasures to the supreme task of the Church, which is to share with others the gift of Christ.

—Henry Smith Leiper,
The C. C. Missions Council

PROJECT OF THE MONTH

This year the boys and girls in many church schools will be studying about Japan. One unique aspect of the church in Japan is the week-day nursery or kindergarten that almost every church seems to have in addition to the Sunday church schools similar to our own. The kindergarten movement in Japan got its start under the guidance of an American Bard missionary, Miss Annie L. Howe, who helped to open the first school for the training of kindergarten teachers in 1889. Since then the kindergarten movement has spread to all parts of Japan and to many different religious groups. Not until after World War II was it a part of the public school system. But the Christian church continues to lead the way in training of teachers and maintaining of high standards.

The kindergarten in Japan serves more than one function. First of all, it provides a place where working mothers may leave their children of pre-school age during the day at very low cost. Second, it directly affects the boys and girls who in addition to receiving lunch, hearing stories, singing songs and playing games, learn of the Christian faith and attitudes. As they carry home what they have learned, the whole family is influenced. Many instances have proved that truly "a little child shall lead them." The third purpose which these day nurseries and kindergartens serve is to provide support for the local church to which they may be connected. Most churches in Japan are self-supporting. Since most church members live on extremely small incomes, the money raised through fees charged at kindergartens is often vital to the existence of the church and enables it to carry on its mission — ministering to the spiritual life of its members, healing the sick, teaching and serving wherever needed.

You may help the churches in Japan and the boys and girls whom they reach by contributing to a special fund for the purchase of chairs and other equipment for kindergartens. Your gifts can be small or large — \$1.00 will buy one chair and \$5.00 will pay for a table. Please indicate on your check that the money is for the December project of the Month, "kindergarten equipment in Japan", and send it to the SEC office.

A FAMILY CHRISTMAS

We have again entered a Christmas season. This is a time of joy for all families as it is the celebration of the coming of a child into a family on that night so long ago. And yet it seems not so long ago as the Christ Child finds His place again in the hearts of men. It is hoped that through the sharing of joys and plans for this holiday the family may celebrate this Christmas in the spirit of Him whose birth we remember with grateful hearts. For "where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in."

Christmas is a family time, and Christmas eve is a time when a family should be together for special worship. Here is a suggested service for use on Christmas eve.

(This service can be held around an open fire and a creche. As the service continues, various figures are added to the creche.)

CALL TO WORSHIP: The poem, "Everywhere, Everywhere, Christmas Tonight", by Phillips Brooks.

CAROL: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing."

POEM: "A Child's Wish"

I wish so much I could have gone
To Bethlehem that night,
And that I could have seen the star
That was so big and bright
It lit the town, it lit the world
With its white lovely light.
I wish I could have gone along
With all the rest to see
The Baby in His bed of hay
The child that was to be
The Jesus whom I love so much;
The Jesus who loves me.
If I could only have slipped in
Close by where Mary sat
And touched His hand as I knelt there
Upon the straw's gold mat —
Why, nothing in the world could be
More wonderful than that!

—Grace Noll Crowell

THE CHRISTMAS STORY: Luke 2: 1-7 (to be read by Mother) After reading, the children place Mary and Joseph and Babe in the creche.

CAROL: "Away in a Manger"

POEM: "The Friendly Beasts" (If not available, add animals when adding family.) Each child place the animal mentioned in his stanza. Let children

In Union There Is Strength

The United Church of Christ is a union of two fellowships, not a merger. When two liquids are combined you can no longer distinguish the original elements. When two or more fibers are twisted into a rope, their strengths are combined, but the strands are separate and visible.

The United Church of Christ has four main strands: Congregational, Christian, Evangelical and Reformed. It may be generations before its members forget their ancestry. No matter; we shall pull together. We shall make a united witness to Christ, whose call it is we have answered in joining our hands and our hearts in the United Church of Christ.

—Robbins Ralph, Superintendent
The Florida Conference

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE

- Dec. 1 — Atlanta Central Church
- Dec. 3 — Ordination R. J. Barnes at County Line Church, 7:30 p. m.
- Dec. 8 — Chattanooga Pilgrim Church; Atlanta Central, evening
- Dec. 10 — Ministers Convocation at Talladega College, Ala.
- Dec. 12 — Budget Committee, Atlanta
- Dec. 15 — Thorsby United Church
- Dec. 27-29 — Church Vocations Conference
- Jan. 1 — Southern Union College
- Jan. 12 — Nashville Brookmeade Church
- Jan. 14 - 16 — Franklinton Center at Bricks, N. C., Board Meeting
- Jan. 24 - 31 — Midwinter Meetings in Buckhill Falls, Pa.

read the poem.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY: Luke 2:8-20 (to be read by Father) Add shepherds to creche.

CAROL: "Silent Night"

STORY: "The First Creche" by Florence M. Taylor.

PRAYER: "Our Father, we love the Christmas time, the fun of surprises, and the joy of giving. May thy love come to all those with whom we have tried to share. Join us in a circle of friendship, with thy children everywhere, who celebrate the birthday of Jesus. Amen."

—Taken in parts from **THE FAMILY CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS**, Pilgrim Series, by Shirley Berry, chairman, SEC Christian Education Committee

Church News

The FIRST CHURCH OF KNOXVILLE sparked its first annual budget-pledge week with a Loyalty Dinner on Nov. 13. This was a festive occasion in our newly renovated church dining room where we were seated at newly acquired folding tables in new folding chairs. A delectable turkey-and-dressing plate from the modernized kitchen was served 154 laymen. Andrew Jones, church treasurer, presided. Dr. James D. Hoskins, President Emeritus of the University of Tennessee, took stock of our past fellowship and heritage and our future potentials. James Kerr presented the present program needs of the church; Kenneth Coile talked on "The Need of the Giver to Give"; William Graham, "Things to Think About in Making a Pledge"; and Roy Sweeney, "How, What and Why of This Canvass". We are indeed fortunate to have the Rev. A. Ray Meserve, our minister, who has been engaged in Church Fund Raising campaigns for the past two years, to supervise the planning of this necessary and vital part of our church program.

Dr. Wm. Kincaid Newman, of the C. C. Church Building Society in New York City, met with us on Nov. 18 for a conference and informal tea at the home of Mrs. Wm. Searle.

Miss Miriam Heermans, president of Kentucky-Tennessee Women's Fellowship, and Mrs. Cyril Haas, retired missionary from Turkey, visited the second meeting of our Women's Fellowship in October. Miss Heermans briefed the women on the purposes and scope of the work of the women in the Congregational church.

—Alberta Ahler, reporter

* * * *

At CHATTANOOGA PILGRIM CHURCH on Nov. 20, Walter A. Graham was the guest speaker at the Laymen's Fellowship dinner.

Union Thanksgiving Day Services were held Nov. 27 at the First Methodist Church with First Christian, Cumberland Presbyterian, and Pilgrim Congregational participating. This joint service has been a custom for some years. The Rev. Arnold Slater gave the sermon this year.

The Slaters will soon be known as

"the traveling Slaters": the Rev. Arnold Slater attended the meeting of the Commission on Interchurch Relations and Christian Unity in Oberlin, Ohio, on Nov. 20-21. He is one of nine members of this national board. Mrs. Slater was one of 100 Congregational Christian women invited to attend the meeting of the Women's Guild of the E & R Church in St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 19-21.

On Nov. 2 Mr. Slater appeared on the TV Panel "Question of the Week"; on Nov. 6 he addressed the Authors and Writers Club on "Thanksgiving"; and on Nov. 14 he participated in the Tree Planting Service at the Wildlife Sanctuary.

Dr. Wm. Kincaid Newman met with our Building Council on Nov. 18 to go over plans for the new church building.

The Junior Department of the Sunday school participated in Share Our Surplus by "buying" sections of rope to form a lifeline to the hungry overseas.

* * *

The NASHVILLE BROOKMEADE CHURCH cooperated in the community Thanksgiving service which was held at the Brook Hollow Baptist Church.

For the Nov. 24th meeting of United Student Fellowship, held at the church, the program included a discussion on "Science and Religion".

New officers elected by the Pilgrim Fellowship at the November meeting were David Granish, president; Carl Remmele, vice-president; Judy Burns, secretary; Mark Weiner, treasurer; and program committee, Michelle Meyer, Mike Brown, and Tommy Lucas. The group will meet twice monthly at the church with members taking turns bringing sandwiches, Cokes, etc.

The Nashville Ministerial Association is planning a city-wide Christmas program for Dec. 23rd.

Supt. Lightbourne will be the sponsor at the annual meeting, to be held Jan. 12th. A fellowship dinner will follow the morning service.

* * * *

The FIRST CHURCH OF COLUMBUS, Ga., still marches on. Considerable money has been spent in preparing the three lots for building a new church. Now the plans have changed

and the church congregation has decided to remodel the present building, which has stood on the corner of Second Avenue and 29th Street for almost 60 years. Remodeling will include a new roof, new floors, air-conditioning and new seats (which have already been bought and paid for.) In order to make the extensive changes the church has purchased two small houses at the back of the church for the sum of \$5,500, the houses to remain rented until remodeling begins.

So far, this heroic little group has not asked a penny from outside the local congregation of hardworking members.

On Oct. 27 the church held its annual homecoming, with Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr. as the guest preacher. His subject was "The Reformation". Following a sumptuous dinner served by the ladies of the church, Mr. Lightbourne again brought a fine message explaining many things about the United Church of Christ.

* * * *

VANCEVILLE CHURCH, near Tifton, in facing the new conference year feels proud of some achievements of 1957.

The Vacation Bible School in August was very successful, even above expectations. Everyone cooperated — the Sunday school helped financially and mothers offered time and talent in transportation, in teaching, in craft work, furnishing and serving refreshments, etc.

Our revival services began Aug. 25 with the Rev. Herbert Long of East Tallassee, Ala., as the guest preacher, and seven members were received.

The Sunday school enrollment has increased during the year from 55 to 66.

The Pilgrim Fellowship is active and members are being added.

The mid-week prayer meeting is helpful to all who attend, and the Adult Bible Study Class, led by Mrs. W. T. Cooper, is also strengthening the church.

The Rev. and Mrs. Henry Abbott, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Allen and Jeff Hand attended our state conference in Demorest Federated Church Oct. 16-17. They reported a good meeting and brought some helpful information for our group.

A project of the Women's Fellowship is to visit absentee church members

and try to interest them in coming to church.

The church has elected two new deacons, who were ordained Nov. 10: Ray Carpenter and Hugh Johnson, who are both fine young fathers and much interested in the church.

—Rosie Hand Matthews, reporter

* * * *

The Women's Fellowship of CREST HEBRON CHURCH, near Thomaston, Ga., has begun work on the annual project of remembering deserving individuals and families of the community with gifts at Christmas. This project is being carried out this year in a different manner, with all club members having birthdays in the same month forming a group and drawing the name of a family with the same number of members to present with gifts.

At the Nov. 22 meeting, held at the Hebron Goodwill Club, all members brought their gifts and enjoyed wrapping them and placing them under the tree. Mrs. Jack Daniel is president; Mrs. Grant Helms, vice president; Mrs. Alton Ellerbee, secretary; and Mrs. R. F. Mallory, treasurer.

—Mrs. James Peterman, reporter

* * * *

The Rev. and Mrs. Clarence W. Baldwin held an open house on Nov. 24 for all members and friends of BIRMINGHAM PILGRIM CHURCH.

Pilgrim is cooperating with First Presbyterian Church in the Union Thanksgiving Service to be held on Thanksgiving morning. Mr. Baldwin will deliver the sermon.

Mr. Baldwin was on station WBRG the morning of Nov. 24, for a sermon to shut-ins.

Dr. Wm. Kincaid Newman, secretary of the Church Building Department, met with the Building Plans Committee on Nov. 17 to discuss plans for the new church. George Plosser, J. F. Brittain and Mr. Baldwin took Mr. Newman to the building site as well as through the community.

A Christmas carol, and candlelighting service has been planned for Dec. 22, for the entire family.

On Nov. 16 St. John's United Church (formerly E & R) invited the PFers of Pilgrim Church to a party. The evening of fun and fellowship closed with the young people joining hands to sing, "Blest Be the Tie that Binds."



Mrs. James I. Barker unveiling the cornerstone dedicating the Educational Building of the East Tallassee Church to the memory of her husband. The building consists of 10 classrooms, two lavatories, kitchen, assembly room and pastor's study.



Edward Thrash, Jonah Pemberton and Rev. Herbert Long (pastor) receiving gifts from the church with Mrs. Wesley Griggs pinning on boutonnieres. The three men gave all their time to the building program, with other church members working in their spare time.

EAST TALLASSEE DEDICATION SERVICE

Those who attended the dedication ceremonies of EAST TALLASSEE CHURCH on Nov. 10 reported a day of warm fellowship. Much hard work, sacrifice and personal denial went into the beautiful sanctuary and new education building. The 144 members have carried on a full church program during the building, and they all worked together in doing almost all the work themselves.

The building plans began four years ago when the Rev. Herbert Long came to East Tallassee as the pastor, and his encouragement and leadership helped them to meet handicaps and obstacles and bring their "dream" to a happy and successful conclusion.

Special gifts were also dedicated during the service: the lighted cross given by the Griggs family in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Griggs; two chancel chairs by the Barker family in memory of Rev. and Mrs. James I. Barker; the grey carpet by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Scroggins; gold offering plates by the Pilgrim Fellowship; lecturn, pulpit and communion table by the Laymen's Fellowship; the dossal by the Women's Fellowship; and the organ by the choir.

Mrs. Jettie Logan has prepared a history of the church, and read it during the service.

The following week revival services were held with the Rev. Charles Bell of Roanoke as the guest preacher.

National Leaders Visit Southern Convention

History was made in Newport News, Va., when the executive committee of the General Council met for the first time in the South the second week in November.

Those present were Dr. Fred Hoskins, minister and secretary of the General Council and Co-president of the United Church of Christ; Dr. Fred Buschmeyer, former secretary of the General Council and now director of the Washington office of the National Council of Churches; Mrs. Mary Fiebig, vice-chairman of the executive committee; George B. Hastings, moderator of the General Council; and Dr. Jesse H. Dollar, member of the executive committee and minister of the host church.

—from THE CHRISTIAN SUN

Survey Of Ministers' Salaries

An intensive study of ministers' salaries will be conducted by the National Council of Churches with the aid of a \$33,500 grant from the Rockefeller Brothers' Fund.

The study, believed to be the first far-reaching, interdenominational analysis of clergymen's salaries, will seek to establish the salaries actually received by ministers as distinct from housing and fringe benefits and to suggest ways in which cooperative religious agencies may aid denominations and local churches in solving salary problems.

According to the 1957 YEARBOOK of AMERICAN CHURCHES published by the Council, the average yearly salary for ministers of three major denominations (including Congregational Christian) was about \$4,000.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION

By HENRY SMITH LEIPER

The Church of Christ exists for its mission of bringing nearer His Kingdom. Anyone whose life has been devoted to that goal through the Christian World Mission is sure to feel great encouragement because of the union which enaugarates the United Church of Christ. The healing of divisions in the life of the church can only come, as all healing does, step by step. We have taken a great step by bringing together two formerly separate denominations so that their outreach at home and abroad will be one.

I see many distinct gains for Our Christian World Mission in what happened at the Uniting Synod. Our horizons are expanded to include new types and areas of work, and each of our communions will gain from the administrative and spiritual experience of the other. Our churches in America, now distributed more evenly throughout the land, can more effectively reach and serve the millions of Americans not affiliated with any church. Our relations with the younger churches overseas will be facilitated because many of them have themselves created united churches. This is true, for example, in Ceylon, India, China, Japan and the Philippines.

The name "United Church of Christ" stresses the unity and Christ-centered character of our witness wherever we are. The limited significance of names which imply theological, national or policy distinctions can only hinder the work of a church seeking to overcome separation and divisiveness.

Our action will strengthen the force of cooperative work through the National Council of Churches, because it brings one step nearer the unity of outreach which it seeks. Similarly, by

demonstrating that churches of unlike history and confessional emphasis can unite, we are strengthening the International Missionary Council and the World Council of Churches. At the same time, we give encouragement to other denominations throughout the world who are moving toward union: more than 200 have found their way to successful union, and 76 are now engaged in negotiations.

Richard Shaull has pointed out in his book, *ENCOUNTER WITH REVOLUTION*, "the new fact of the world church understood in the light of God's purposes for history is the most revolutionary thing which the American Christian community could possibly discover and it can only lead to a total reorientation of the life, thought, and program of any . . . church that dares to take it seriously." This new union of ours is a part of the wider ecumenical movement which seeks to meet the modern challenge facing Christianity. As Dr. Charles Burtain said of the earlier union between the Congregational and Christian denominations, this may well be the forerunner of other unions, all strengthening the church universal in its obedience to the vision of a Christian world—a world which will be the answer to the prayer, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven."

—from *MISSION TODAY*, Oct. - Nov.

A NEW TRANSLATION of the Apocrypha was issued on the fifth anniversary of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. It was also translated by a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Luther A. Weigle. The Apocrypha are the 15 books and portions of books which appear in the Latin Vulgate, but which are not in the Hebrew Bible.

COMING EVENTS — 1958

Jan. 26 — Youth Week

Feb. 9 — Race Relations Sunday

Feb. 11-14 — Southern Christian Social Action Institute, Avon Park, Fla.

Feb. 16 — Brotherhood Week

Feb. 21 — World Day of Prayer

March 15-16 — SEC Pilgrim Fellowship annual meeting at LaGrange United.

April 19-20 — SEC annual meeting at Lanett Church

Summer Camps And Conferences

Kentucky - Tennessee Family Camp at Pomona, Tenn., June 8-14, 1958. Dean, Rev. Clyde C. Flannery; Business Manager, Rev. Harold W. Freer.

Alabama - NW Florida Young People at Southern Union College July 27-August 2, 1958. Dean, Rev. Charles Bell; Business Manager, Rev. Kermit Harris.

Georgia - South Carolina Conference, at Roosevelt State Park August 17-23, 1958. Dean, Rev. Sam Nelson. Work Camp at Southern Union College Aug. 3-16; at Bricks, N. C. Aug. 17-30, 1958.

Women's Rallies And Retreats

Women's Fellowship Spring Rallies will be held April 7-17, 1958 with the Rev. Mill Lillian Gregory, national executive secretary of Women's Work as the speaker.

Women's Fellowship Retreats — Ga.-South Carolina Retreat will be July 19 and 20 at Perry, Ga.

Alabama - Northwest Florida Retreat will be July 25 and 26 at Southern Union College.